

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 2 were present in the application. Claim 1 is amended herein. Claim 2 is canceled, being directed to non-elected subject matter, with reservation of the right to file divisional applications thereto. New claims 3-15 are added.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hoffenberg, US 1,625,941. Application respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 is amended herein to clarify differences between applicant's device and the teaching of Hoffenberg. Hoffenberg is concerned with assisting only in vertical movement of a sash window to unstick the window after long periods being shut.

In contrast, applicant's claims are to a gliding door opening system. The claims as amended and added are intended to define over Hoffenberg. Applicant's system converts the operation of the handle (which may be for example, rotational movement) to a horizontal or lateral movement of a door opening assist member. In accordance with this, a gliding door is more effortlessly opened and the assist member helps to push the door toward an opening direction.

New claims 3-14 are added to recite further details of the configuration. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are supported by the specification and drawings as filed, and

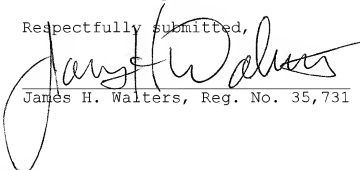
favorable review thereof is requested. In particular, FIG. 4 and 6, and the description at page 6, line 17 through page 7, line 24, disclose details of the new claims.

Hoffenberg is addressing different issues and has a different function than applicant's claims. With applicant's claims, a gliding door may be provided with a latch mechanism that provides a relatively easy opening of a gliding door by operation of a handle, even in the case of large doors which can be of significant weight.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, consideration of allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this filing as the extension of time with official fees was submitted earlier this date. However, if additional fees are required to keep the application pending, please charge deposit account 503036. If fee refund is owed, please refund to deposit account 503036.

Respectfully submitted,

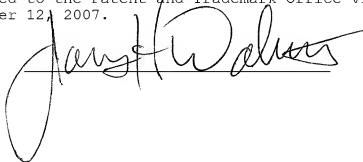


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via the EFS system on this October 12, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jany H. Walmsley", is written over a horizontal line.